

ALL IN COLOUR - MAKES LEARNING A JOY

Once Upon a Time

EVERY WEDNESDAY

No. 36 • 18th October 1969

PRICE 1/3



The ENCHANTED HORSE



1. The wicked Indian magician did not look very thankful as he left the palace of the King of Persia after being let out of prison. "The Prince, who rode off on my flying horse and brought back the Princess of Bengal to be his bride, might well be happy," he scowled. "But soon I will alter all that."



2. He hurried to the Prince's own palace and spoke to the Captain of the guard. "Good sir, I am here on an errand from the Prince," he said. "He bids me collect the lovely Bengal Princess and carry her at once to the Royal Palace, where he wishes to present her to his father, the King."



3. The Captain let him in and the magician bowed deeply to the Princess. "Fairest lady, Prince Fironz has sent me. He begs you to mount the Enchanted Horse and to ride to meet him in the square of the city," he said. "Being not sure that you know how to ride the flying horse, he bids me help you."



4. It was true that the Princess had not noticed how the horse was made to fly, so it seemed natural to her that the magician had been sent to escort her. Willingly she climbed on to the back of the horse behind the magician, and though the Captain of the guard seemed to have doubts, she said that she was ready.



5. At a touch on the control knob, the wonderful flying horse soared into the sky and as it climbed higher and higher the Princess felt a little alarmed for the first time. "Surely we have long since passed the Palace," she said. But the magician kept the horse flying.



6. "Henceforth I am your master, Princess," cackled the evil magician. "Now I shall be revenged upon your Prince, for I have stolen his bride." In spite of the tears and pleadings of the Princess, the magician guided the Enchanted Horse down into a forest.



7. Now this was in a place far away from Persia, in the state of the Sultan of Cashmir, who at that moment was riding with a hunting-party in the same forest. The Princess tried to run away but the Indian magician grasped her roughly by the wrist. "Do not call for help," he warned her. "This hunting-party may stop and ask questions but you are to say nothing!"

More of this lovely Enchanted Horse story next week.

NATURE'S GIANTS

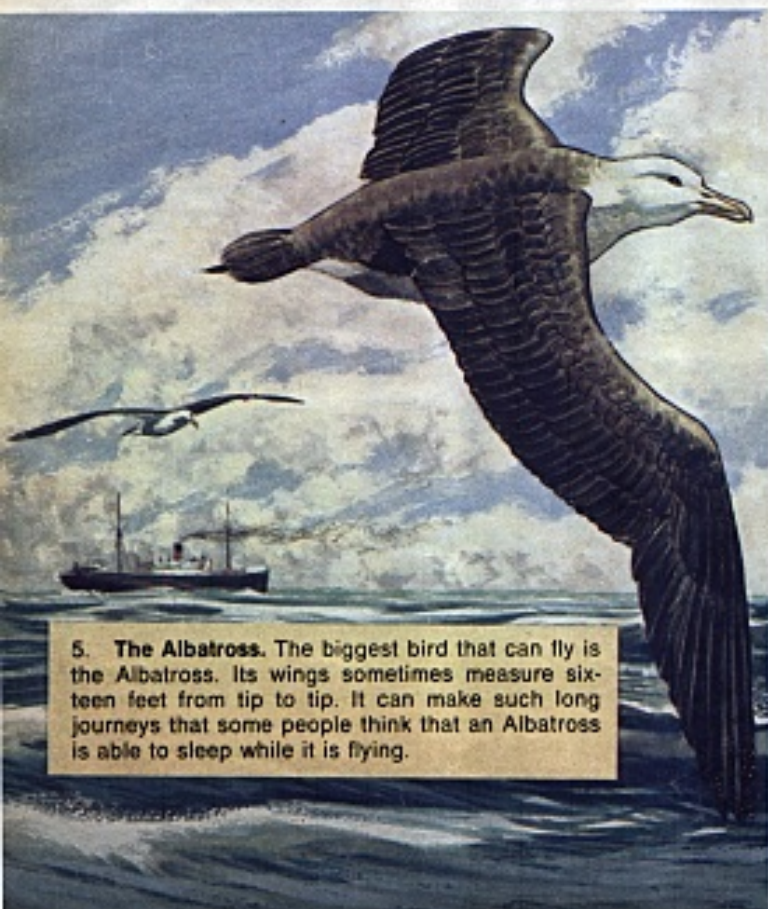
Here are our "Allsorts" pages. This week we show you an assortment of creatures, the biggest of their kind.



1. **The Ostrich.** The Ostrich, largest of all birds, lives in Africa and Arabia. It is more than seven feet tall and although it is too heavy to fly, it can run faster than a horse can gallop.



2. **The Elephant.** The African elephant is the biggest animal which lives entirely on land. Despite its huge size it only eats green shoots of trees and similar food. The Indian elephant is smaller and has not got such large ears.



5. **The Albatross.** The biggest bird that can fly is the Albatross. Its wings sometimes measure sixteen feet from tip to tip. It can make such long journeys that some people think that an Albatross is able to sleep while it is flying.



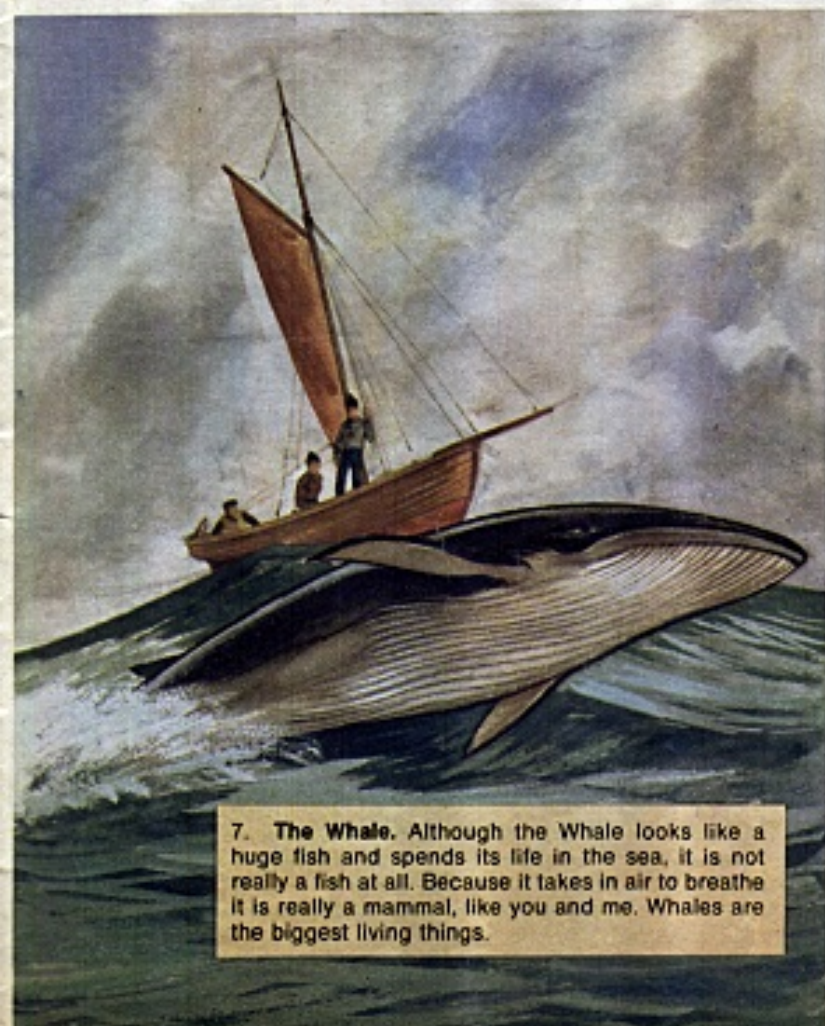
6. **The Gorilla.** The animals which behave most like human beings are called apes, and the largest and most powerful of them is the Gorilla. It looks very fierce, but, like the elephant, it feeds entirely upon plants.



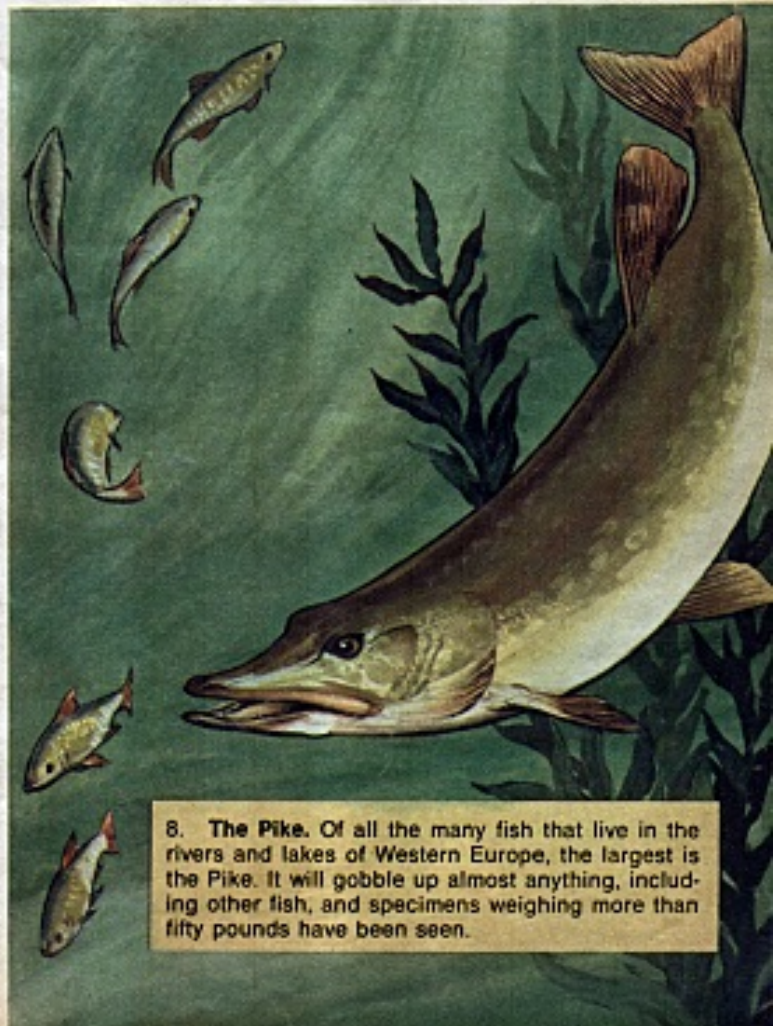
3. **The Red Deer.** There was a time when big bears roamed freely in Europe and were the largest animals to be seen. But now members of the Deer family are the biggest wild creatures likely to be found. A Red Deer stag is a fine-looking animal.



4. **The Golden Eagle.** The largest bird to be found in Europe is the Golden Eagle. These handsome creatures are not often seen away from the lonely parts of Scandinavia, Scotland and Wales.



7. **The Whale.** Although the Whale looks like a huge fish and spends its life in the sea, it is not really a fish at all. Because it takes in air to breathe it is really a mammal, like you and me. Whales are the biggest living things.



8. **The Pike.** Of all the many fish that live in the rivers and lakes of Western Europe, the largest is the Pike. It will gobble up almost anything, including other fish, and specimens weighing more than fifty pounds have been seen.



BRER RABBIT

The Monster from the Pool. By Barbara Hayes.

NOW, one mighty hot summer's day, Brer Rabbit took all his little baby rabs down to the pool on the edge of the forest.

The pool was cool and green and very deep in the middle, but round the edges it was shallow and fun.

My, what a good time the rabbits had splashing and swimming.

But then, unluckily, Brer Wolf came lickety-clipping along the road.

"Howdy!" he said to Brer Rabbit.

"Howdy!" replied Brer Rabbit.

"Howdy!" said Brer Wolf to all the little rabs.

"Howdy! Howdy! Howdy! Howdy! Howdy!" they replied.

"Well, you are all looking mighty fine today," said Brer Wolf, licking his lips and looking at the rabbits. "In fact I might even say you look good enough to eat. Ha! Ha! Ha!"

"Ha! Ha! Ha!" replied the rabbits, but they didn't seem to find the joke as funny as Brer Wolf did.

Then Brer Rabbit said:

"Why, Brer Wolf, it's really lucky that you came by. You are just the person who can help us."

"How come, Brer Rabbit?" asked Brer Wolf.

"Well, I'll tell you, Brer Wolf—I wouldn't tell anyone else mind, only a good friend like you," said Brer Rabbit.

"Of course, Brer Rabbit, of course," smiled Brer Wolf.

"Well, Brer Wolf, you may think that we are just wasting our time here, splashing around and swimming, but the truth is

that we are looking for a gold plate."

"A gold plate, Brer Rabbit?"

"Yes, a gold plate, Brer Wolf. It is very shiny and worth lots of money and it belongs to the monster of the pool."

"Monster, Brer Rabbit?" gasped Brer Wolf, feeling a bit scared.

"Yes, the monster," said Brer Rabbit. "He lives in the pool, but just at the moment he is off shopping and so we are trying to get the gold plate for ourselves."

Then Brer Rabbit made everyone keep as still as grass on a windless day and then he told Brer Wolf to look at the centre of the pool. And there, floating on the water, was a large, golden, shining plate. It was magnificent. It was glorious—and, of course, it wasn't a plate at all. It was the reflection of the sun, but Brer Wolf was so full of greed that he didn't think of that.

"Are you sure the monster has gone shopping?" Brer Wolf asked Brer Rabbit.

"Sure as I've got two feet," replied that naughty scamp.

"Then I'm going in to get that plate!" said Brer Wolf, and with that he plunged into the water.

Immediately Brer Rabbit told his little rabs to jump on to his shoulders. They wrapped themselves round with towels so that only the topmost rabbit's face could be seen.

They looked like a terrible monster ten feet tall.

In a few minutes Brer Wolf came splashing out of the pool.

"I couldn't find that plate anywhere . . . AAAAAAAAAHHH!"

How he yelled when he saw the monster coming towards him and roaring with a voice as loud as six people's.

"I've eaten the rabbits and now it's your turn," shouted the monster.

"Oh no, please don't do that," gasped Brer Wolf, shivering and shaking so much that drops of water came shooting off him like spray from a hose-pipe. "When I dived into the water and swam around I didn't see anything that belonged to you—honest, I didn't. It wasn't a gold plate I was after."

"Grrrrrr!" growled the monster. "This is my pool and anyone I find around here gets eaten up quick!"

Brer Wolf turned tail and raced for home as hard as he could go.

It was lucky he didn't look round, or he would have seen the monster turning back into Brer Rabbit and his little rabs.

How they laughed. And they laughed even more the next day, when Brer Wolf happened to meet them at the shops.

"I heard that the monster from the pool ate you," he gasped.

"You don't want to believe everything you hear," laughed the cheeky rabbits.

There will be another Brer Rabbit story next week.

BRER RABBIT'S RIDDLES

1. What is the last thing you take off at night?
2. When an elephant sits on a fence, what time is it?

ANSWERS:

- Time to get a new fence.
1. You take your foot off the floor. 2.



Fun With Numbers

Here are five pictures, which show you different ways of getting from one place to another. Try to answer the question under each picture and have fun learning to count.



A. Four trains are in the station. Two leave for the seaside. How many trains are left?



B. Two aeroplanes fly in the sky. Three more appear. How many aeroplanes now fly?



C. Here are five motor coaches. Two drive to the country. How many motor coaches remain?



D. Seven ships are in port. Three leave for other countries. How many ships are left?



E. Three boys ride their bicycles. Their five friends join them. How many children are riding bicycles?

ANSWERS:

A, $4-2=2$. B, $2+3=5$. C, $5-2=3$. D, $7-3=4$. E, $3+5=8$.



This is a Memory Test. When you have read the story, turn to page 16 and try to answer the questions you will find there.

The Tigress and her cubs

A FEW weeks ago in "Once Upon A Time" we showed you a picture of a lioness and her cubs and told you the tale of Androcles and the Lion, who lived together in a cave and became great friends. It was perhaps lucky that Androcles did not meet a tiger, for tigers are much fiercer and do not readily make friends with human beings. The tiger cubs in the picture above are attractive little bundles of fur, but they will grow up into very savage creatures, prowling and creeping through bushes and long grass in search of other animals on which they feed. No tigers are found in Africa, which is the home of the lions, so these two "big cats" are different in that respect. Another great difference is that lions will hunt in a group of three or four, but a tiger will always hunt alone. That is why in India and Asia, where it lives, the tiger is known as the lone hunter. A fully-grown tiger usually weighs about 400 pounds and the biggest ever seen measured eleven feet from the tip of its nose to the tip of its tail.

When a tiger is hunting it finds itself a

suitable place for an ambush, then waits to spring out upon its prey. Once the prey has been killed, the tiger waits until it is nearly dark before feasting itself. Each tiger has its own area, over which it is master. If a hunting tiger finds another tiger on its area, then the two will fight. This fight usually ends with the intruder surrendering by raising its paw into the air.

It has often been said that the "cat" family does not like water, but the tiger is quite happy to go for a swim in a river to cool itself, or to get across to the other side to a hunting ground. In some Northern parts of Asia, where it is very cold, the tiger is just as happy to romp around in deep snow, when other animals are huddling in shelters.

You may wonder why tigers have dark stripes on their bodies. This is nature's clever way of helping them to escape being noticed by other animals. Tigers live mostly in tall grass, which in sunlight cause "stripy" shadows. These shadows blend in with the stripes on the coat of

the tiger, so it is not easily seen at a quick glance. This kind of special colouring in animals is known as camouflage.

Although very fierce and feared by most animals, the tiger itself becomes frightened when attacked by one particular animal smaller than itself. This animal is the wild boar. A tiger will not face up to the strong, pointed tusks of a wild boar and usually runs away as fast as it can.

Rarely, even when hunted, does the tiger climb trees, though in many ways it is more like the pet cats in our homes, in the shape of its body and head.

A tigress usually has between two and five cubs, which are born with their striped markings. The young cubs remain with their mother until the third year, while she teaches them to hunt, so that they can then go out into the jungle world and look after themselves.

If ever you visit a zoo and go into the house of the "big cats" you will usually find that the tigers are always on the move, prowling round their cages in a restless, hunting sort of way.



Can you imagine how bare our countryside would look without its many tall and graceful trees?

1. THE HORSE CHESTNUT

The Horse Chestnut is a very well-known tree. Many children collect its sticky buds in the Spring and put them in a jar or vase of water. They can then watch how the buds open and the leaves appear in a cluster like the fingers on a hand. This lovely tree has white or pink flowers, which stand up like candles when they are in bloom. The seed of this tree is formed inside a protective shell which has spikes on it, but is not as prickly as the shell which covers the seed of the other member of the chestnut tree family—the Sweet Chestnut, which we like to eat. The Horse Chestnut seed, shiny and polished, has a bitter taste and should not be eaten by humans. Some animals, such as pigs, enjoy them, but children get all the fun they want by playing "conkers" with them. The tree, its buds, flowers, leaves and seed are shown above.



Trees

2. THE SILVER BIRCH

The Silver Birch is a very graceful tree and, as the picture shows, it often seems to have two trunks. A famous poet once called a birch tree "The Lady of the Woods". It is not hard to see a Silver Birch from a distance, for part of the bark is silvery white in colour and shows up very easily. The leaves are glossy and leathery-looking with deeply-toothed edges. As the stalks of the leaves are very thin, the slightest breeze causes them to rustle and shake, making a whispering sound. Listen for it, if ever you get the chance. In the early part of the year you will see hanging catkins. When ripe, these are a dark red colour. Later on, tiny nuts, or seeds, will form from these catkins. Each nut has a pair of very thin wings and when they are set free they flutter down to the ground on the breeze like a swarm of small flies.



You can see

3. THE ASH

A well-grown Ash tree can grow to a height of a hundred feet, and is almost as graceful as the Silver Birch. The best Ash trees are found on the northern and eastern sides of hills, where it finds the moist, cool air to its liking. In early Spring, when the branches are still without leaves, try to have a close look at the twigs. You will notice that the buds are quite black. You can see some of these black buds in the picture above. Also shown are the flowers of the Ash, but these are very tiny, poor-looking things. However, it is from these flowers that the seeds come and these are more interesting. They hang down in clusters, and the proper name for them is samaras, but we usually call them spinners, for a very good reason. The seed is at one end and, when it falls, the seed-pod spins in the wind and the seed-end always reaches the earth first.

4. THE OAK

The Oak tree lives for hundreds of years. It may grow very large and some oak trees have trunks which are more than twenty feet round. The ships of the English navy were called Hearts of Oak, because they used to be made of seasoned oak wood. If you look carefully, at the right time of the year when the leaves are fresh and green, you will see the oak tree flowers. These are tiny green flowers which hang in clusters. The picture above shows you what they are like. You will hardly need to be told what an acorn, the seed of the mighty oak, looks like. In the Autumn you can pick up hundreds of them from under an oak tree—but did you know that an oak tree has to be about sixty years old before it can produce acorns? The thick bark of the tree is deeply furrowed, and this makes a good home for many kinds of insects.



The Three Spinners



1. Once upon a time, there lived a little girl who hated spinning. Her way to get out of it was to sit and cry and cry; but one day, the Queen of the land was passing by, and when she heard the crying, she stopped her carriage and went up to the pretty little cottage where all the noise was coming from, to see what the matter was.



2. The Queen went right into the cottage, and asked the little girl's mother what all the crying was about. Her mother was ashamed to tell the Queen that her daughter was lazy, and was trying to get out of doing the spinning, so she told the Queen that she was crying because she loved spinning, and they were too poor to buy flax.



3. The Queen said that the little girl could come to the Palace and spin the flax there, as there was enough to fill three rooms! And that if she spun all the flax there, she would have the Prince, her son, as her husband.



4. At the Palace, the little girl felt quite ill at the thought of having to spin all the flax there, and she just sat in the window of one of the rooms day after day, wondering how she was going to get out of spinning this time.



5. On the third day, the girl saw three old ladies by the window, and what a strange trio they made. The first had a broad, flat foot, the second a huge bottom lip, and the third, an enormous thumb.



6. The three women offered their help to spin the flax, if they could come to the wedding. The little girl agreed, and the strange trio began to spin. And how fast they worked, the first pulling the thread and treading the wheel with her big foot, the second wetting the thread with her huge lip, and the third twisting and smoothing it with her huge thumb.

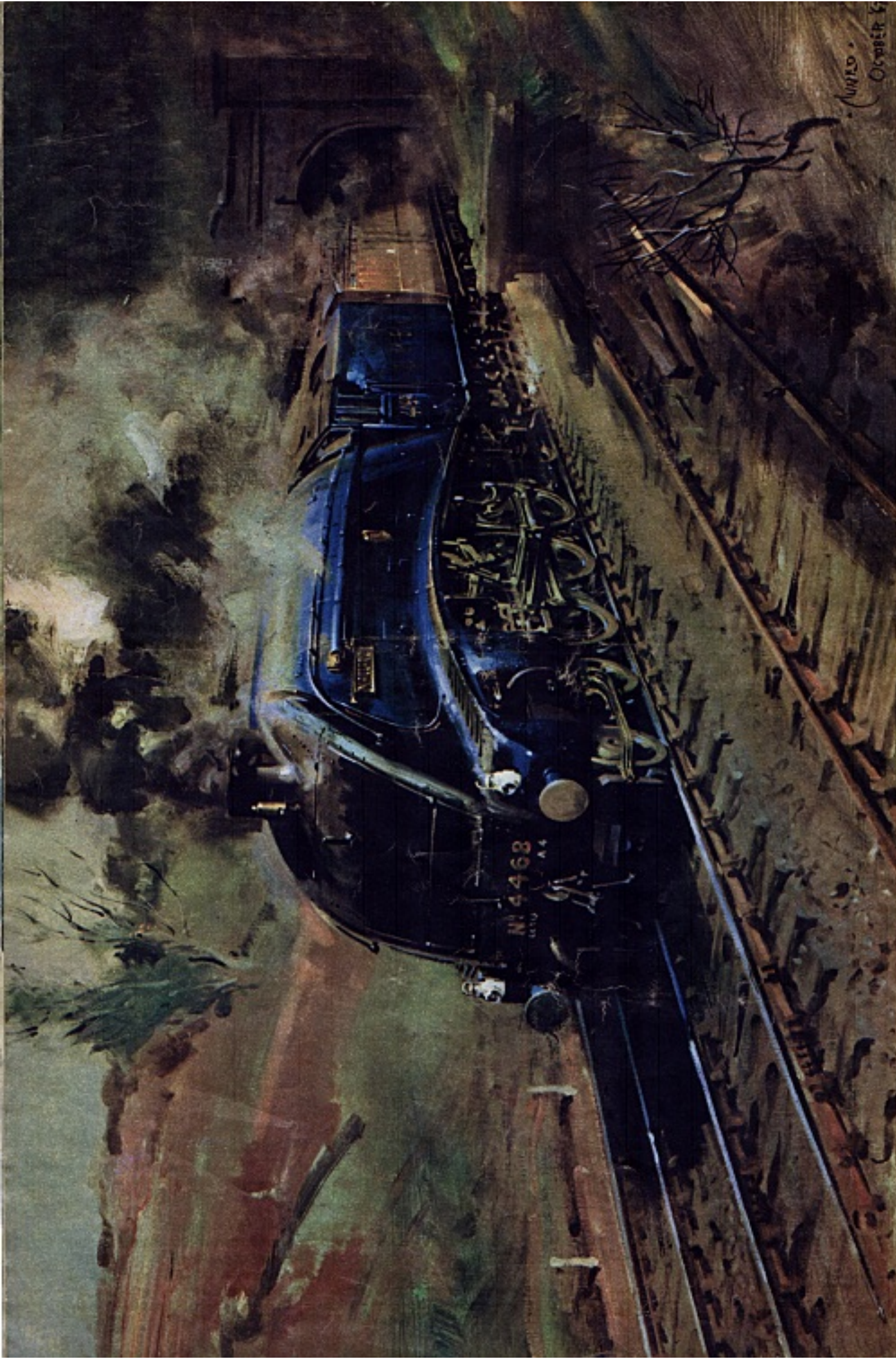


7. In no time, they had spun the flax in all three rooms, and the Queen was delighted. She gave orders for the wedding preparations immediately. The little girl did not forget her three helpers, and they were invited, too. The three old ladies were delighted, and were treated as special guests by the Prince and the new Princess, and really enjoyed themselves at the feast.



8. The Prince wanted to meet the strange ladies, and they were introduced to him by his new Princess. He asked them how they became so ugly. The first old lady told the Prince that her foot was so big through years of treading a spinning wheel, and the second and third agreed that spinning had made them ugly, too.

9. The Prince was shocked, because he thought that his new wife liked spinning, but he vowed there and then that if the same thing was likely to happen to his bride, he would never let her touch a spinning wheel again ever. Which was perhaps just as well because, if you remember, the girl hated spinning anyway, didn't she?



Here is another exciting railway-engine picture to add to your collection. Like the others we have shown in "Once Upon A Time", it was painted by the famous artist, Terence Cunee. It shows The Mallard, a powerful engine which used to run on the London and North Eastern Railway, and which holds the world's speed record for steam engines at 126 miles an hour. Just by looking at the picture you

Beautiful Paintings

hear, in your imagination, the whoosh and the roar of this racing giant as it bursts out of a tunnel. This kind of engine used to pull the train called the Flying Scotsman, which leaves at ten o'clock in the morning from London to Edinburgh. The Mallard can still be seen in the railway museum at Clapham, near London. (Taken from a reproduction distributed by Felix Rosenstiel's Widow and Son.)

The Greek Warrior

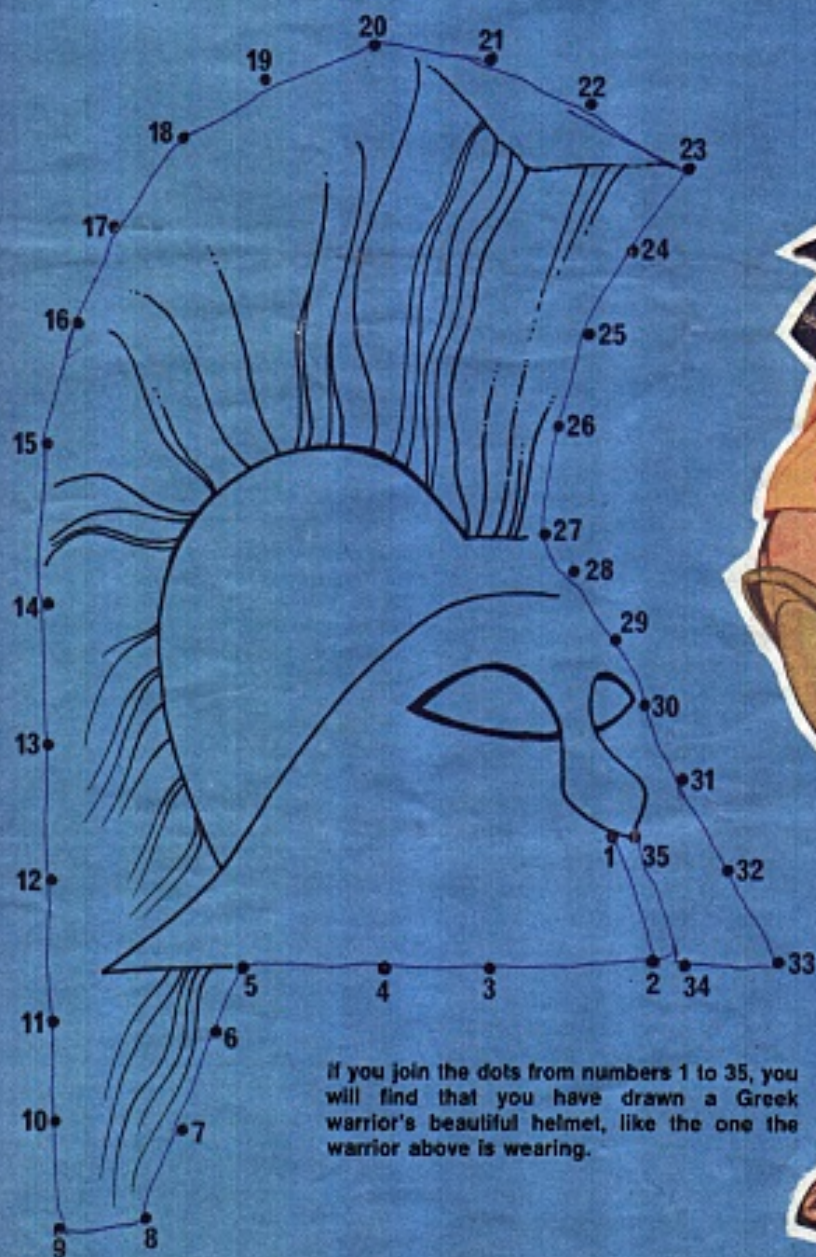
This is a picture of a Greek Warrior. How fierce he looks in his armour. The helmet he is wearing is designed to protect his face in battle, and the armour he is wearing on his legs is to protect them. You can see the shield he is carrying is decorated with a picture of a bull. This is how the Greek warriors dressed for battle over 2,000 years ago.



If you join the dots from numbers 1 to 35, you will find that you have drawn a Greek warrior's beautiful helmet, like the one the warrior above is wearing.

RH

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The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

This week the story is about a big balloon. By Barbara Hayes.

ONE morning, Winifred, the country mouse, was happily washing her clothes in the little stream that ran through her garden.

Bubble! Bubble-bubbly-bub went the stream as it ran along.

Tweet-tweet-tweet went the birds in the trees.

"Hum-tra-la-la. Tra-la-la-hum", sang Winifred to herself.

Ting-a-ling-a-ling went Bertie's bicycle bell.

"What was that?" gasped Winifred, suddenly snapping upright in surprise.

As if in answer to her question, Bertie's bicycle bell sounded again—*Ting-a-ling-a-ling!*

Winifred sprang to her feet and ran to the garden gate.

"Something must be wrong!" she puffed. "I shouldn't be hearing Bertie's bicycle bell until four in the afternoon, when he comes round for a cup of tea."

Bertie was Winifred's boy-friend and he always took half an hour off from his work on the farm to come round to Winifred's for a cup of tea every afternoon at four o'clock.

"Why on earth is Bertie round here at eleven in the morning?" thought Winifred. "And why is he ringing his bicycle bell like that?"

Winifred reached her gate and peered up the lane.

Racing towards her on his bicycle was Bertie.

As soon as he caught sight of Winifred, Bertie stopped ringing his bell and started shouting and pointing up into the sky of all places.

Winifred looked up—and her little mouth dropped open with surprise and her round black eyes stared as if staring had just been invented.

There up in the sky, swaying and swinging silently in the blue air, was a large striped balloon.

And the balloon wasn't even high in the sky. It was low down—just above Winifred's cottage roof, in fact.

It was very near and very big and, most startling of all, hanging from the balloon

was a basket, and looking over the side of the basket was a mouse—a strange mouse with his eyes hidden behind mysterious goggles and a large foreign-looking cap on his head.

Winifred was still staring with amazement, when Bertie leapt off his bicycle at her side.

"Just look at that balloon," said Bertie. "I was looking up into the sky trying to scare the crows away from the cornfield, when I saw it drifting over and I could see that it was going to land near your cottage, so I came rushing over. I thought you might be a bit scared if you were here alone, when a thing like that landed."

Winifred swallowed, because her throat was rather dry.

"How thoughtful of you, Bertie," she said. "Yes, I should have been scared if I had been alone. And I'll tell you something else, I'm still scared even though I'm not alone!"

One of Winifred's neighbours came to have a look, too, and by this time the balloon was much nearer to the ground and with a sudden rush it came down—*plump* in Winifred's back garden.

Then a strong puff of wind came and the balloon started to float away, but the strange mouse made a grab at the nearest thing he could get hold of, which was Winifred's clothes-line. Luckily, it was a strong one. The post bent a little but when the breeze died down, the striped balloon came to rest on the grass and stayed there.

The strange mouse scrambled out of the basket, but instead of looking fierce, he staggered about as if he were tired and stiff. And when he pulled off his goggles and cap, he didn't look strange any more, but just like any other mouse.

"I—er—suppose, as you might say in your language, that I have just dropped in," he said. "I am so sorry if I have startled you and hope that your line of washing has suffered no damage."

"Not at all," said Winifred. "Have you hurt yourself?"

"I think not," replied the stranger,

stretching himself. "I just feel a bit stiff through standing in that basket for so long. If you would be so kind as to put up with me for a short while, I would like to sit down."

Winifred's kind little heart felt sorry for him at once.

"Well, I don't know what this is all about," she smiled, "but you look as though you need a nice cup of tea."

She stepped forward towards the strange mouse and said, "Sit in my garden chair in the sunshine and I will fetch you a cup of tea and you can tell us all about how you got here."

The mouse smiled gratefully and said, "You are very kind—thank you."

And he flopped down in the garden chair, worn out.

Next week the strange mouse will tell his story.

Here are some questions from the story about the Tigress and her Cubs on page 9. Try to answer them, then look back at the story to see how right you were.

1. In what part of the world would you see wild tigers?
2. How much does a fully-grown tiger usually weigh?
3. Which animal is the tiger afraid of?
4. Are tiger cubs born with striped markings on their bodies?

The Editor's Letter

Hello, Boys and Girls,

How did you get on with the Memory Test questions about the Tigress and her Cubs? Some people have better memories than others and seem to be able to remember things that they hear or read about quite easily. When you were very young, your parents probably got you to recite nursery rhymes and told you how clever you were when you got them all right. This was all part of training the memory of a small child, so what was a fun game was really the start of learning at an early age.

Goodbye for now,

Your friend, The Editor.



JACK AND THE BEANSTALK



1. Do you remember how Jack climbed the magic beanstalk again and hid in a tub in the giant's house? When the giant came in he sniffed the air. "Wife," he said, "I smell boy. Find him."

2. The giant's wife looked in the oven. "You must have been mistaken—he's not here," she said. "That's strange," the giant growled. "I felt sure I could smell boy!"



3. Muttering to himself, the giant sat down and ate two whole turkeys for his breakfast and drank as much coffee as would fill two buckets. When he had finished, he called out to his wife to clear the table. "Then bring me my golden harp," he said.



4. Peeping from beneath the lid of the tub, Jack saw the wife fetch a beautiful golden harp and place it on the table in front of the giant. "Sing!" commanded the giant, and the harp began to sing in the sweetest voice Jack had ever heard.



5. The giant sat listening to the lovely music for a while and then his eyes began to close and his head began to nod. His mouth dropped open and he snored. He was fast asleep.



6. Soon the giant's snores were like the sound of thunder. This was what Jack had been waiting for. He lifted the lid of the tub very carefully and climbed out, quiet as a mouse.



7. Of course, Jack was scared. Who wouldn't have been? But despite the fact that his heart was going thump-thump-thump against his ribs, he crept on hands and knees over to the table, climbed up the leg of a chair on to the seat and ever so gently took the golden harp. And all the time the giant snored and snored.



8. As soon as Jack had the golden harp in his hands, he made a dash with it towards the door. But before he could reach it, the harp called out in a very loud voice: "Master! Wake up, master!" With a mighty start the giant awoke and saw Jack. He gave a roar of rage that made the house shake.

Will the giant catch Jack? There will be more of this exciting story next week.

FAMOUS NAMES

interesting facts about people, places and things in our world.



1. **The Battle of Agincourt.** Once, in olden days, England and France had been at war for almost a hundred years. Then a great battle was fought between them at Agincourt, in France. The bold French knights, wearing heavy armour, advanced but were defeated by the English archers using long-bows, which could shoot arrows even through armour.



2. **Sir Galahad.** Sir Galahad was the bravest and purest of King Arthur's twelve Knights of the Round Table, who had all promised to lead holy lives and to not rest until they had found the Holy Grail, the cup Jesus had used at the Last Supper. After many exciting adventures it was the brave Sir Galahad who found the Holy Grail in a cave.



3. **The Pekin Gate.** Pekin is the capital city of China. In these days modern factories and apartment buildings surround the old city which was once the home of the Emperors of China. In those days, several walls, with gates and towers, protected the city. The Pekin Gate is shown here. The Emperor's palace was behind a high wall in the centre of the old city.



4. **William Shakespeare.** William Shakespeare, a clever English author, wrote plays which many people think are the best ever written. His first play, called "A Midsummer Night's Dream", was about fairies. Some of his plays were sad love stories, others were funny and several were exciting adventures of kings and queens. Many have been made into films.